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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of  
K. MIYAZAWA, et al.

International Application No.: PCT/JP01/00075

International Filing Date: 11 January 2001

Title: Microgel And External Compositions Containing The Same

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENTBOX PCT  
Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

After assigning a serial number to the above-captioned application and before calculating the fee, please undertake the following changes:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please rewrite Claims 4, 5, 8 and 12-14 as follows:

Please substitute the amended claims 4, 5, 8, and 12-14 for the original claims 4, 5, 8 and 12-14:

4. (Amended) A microgel as described in claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic compound capable of forming a gel is one or more hydrophilic compounds selected from the group consisting of agar, carrageenan, curdlan, gelatin, gellan gum, and alginic acid.

5. (Amended) A microgel as described in claim 1, which has a viscosity of 2,000-1,000,000 mPa.s (B-type viscometer, 25°C).

8. (Amended) An external composition comprising a microgel of claim 1.

12. (Amended) An external composition as described in claim 9, wherein the amount of the pharmaceutical ingredient and/or the salt is 0.01-20 mass% of the total of the composition.

13. (Amended) An external composition as described in claim 8, which is a cosmetic composition.

14. (Amended) An external composition as described in claim 8, which is a hair dye.

Please add new claims 15 and 16 as follows:

15. A microgel as described in claim 2, wherein the hydrophilic compound capable of forming a gel is one or more hydrophilic compounds selected from the group consisting of agar, carrageenan, curdlan, gelatin, gellan gum, and alginic acid.

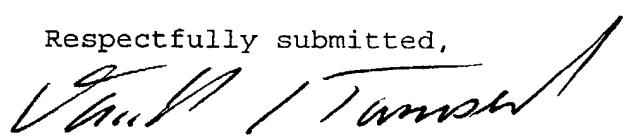
16. A microgel as described in claim 2, which has a viscosity of 2,000-1,000,000 mPa.s (B-type viscometer, 25°C).

REMARKS

The amendments to Claims 4, 5, 8 and 12-14 are made to eliminate the multiple dependencies and to place the claims in proper U.S. format. In addition, new claims 15 and 16 have been added. The effect of the foregoing amendments relate only to matters of form, and the substance of the claims remain the same. The present amendment is deemed not to add new matter. Claims 1-16 are in the application.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for examination on the merits and early action and allowance thereof is accordingly respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Donald E. Townsend  
Reg. No. 22,069

Date: September 11, 2001

TOWNSEND & BANTA, P.C.  
#50028  
1225 Eye Street, N.W.  
Suite 500  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
(202) 682-4727

MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS 4, 5, 8 AND 12-14

Please substitute the amended claims 4, 5, 8, and 12-14 for the original claims 4, 5, 8 and 12-14:

4. (Amended) A microgel as described in [any one of claims 1 through 3] claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic compound capable of forming a gel is one or more hydrophilic compounds selected from the group consisting of agar, carrageenan, curdlan, gelatin, gellan gum, and alginic acid.

5. (Amended) A microgel as described in [any one of claims 1 through 4] claim 1, which has a viscosity of 2,000-1,000,000 mPa.s (B-type viscometer, 25°C).

8. (Amended) An external composition comprising a microgel of [any one of claims 1 through 5] claim 1.

12. (Amended) An external composition as described in [any one of claims 9 through 11] claim 9, wherein the amount of the pharmaceutical ingredient and/or the salt is 0.01-20 mass% of the total of the composition.

13. (Amended) An external composition as described in [any one of claims 8 through 12] claim 8, which is a cosmetic composition.

14. (Amended) An external composition as described in [any one of claims 8 through 12] claim 8, which is a hair dye.